

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (currently amended) A method for managing storage devices by using a computer, wherein said computer reads information about an operation rule for said storage devices accommodated previously in a memory device and information about an operation procedure being an order of execution of a plurality of operations of said storage devices associated with said operation rule for said storage devices,

wherein said operation rule defines for said operation procedure a predetermined action to be taken if a preset condition is not satisfied upon execution of said operation procedure,

wherein said computer receives an instruction to select said information about said operation rule for said storage devices from a user, sends said storage devices an instruction to execute said operation procedure of said storage devices associated with information about said operation rule based on said operation rule received, obtains a result of an execution result of said operation procedure or a state of utilization of storage devices, and changes the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure if the execution result indicates the preset condition has not been satisfied, based on said execution result or said state of utilization.

wherein the execution order of operations of each operation procedure is different relative to the execution order of operations of each of a plurality of other operation procedures.

2. (currently amended) A method of managing storage devices by using a computer, wherein said computer reads first information about an operation rule for said storage devices accommodated previously in a memory device and second information about an operation procedure being an order of execution of a plurality of operations of said storage devices associated with said operation rule for said storage devices,

wherein said operation rule defines for said operation procedure a predetermined action to be taken if a preset condition is not satisfied upon execution of said operation procedure,

wherein said computer sends said storage devices an instruction to execute said operation procedure of said storage devices based on the basis of said operation rule and said operation procedure of said storage devices, which have been read, obtains third information from said storage devices indicative of a result of execution of said operation procedure, and based on said third information obtained from said storage devices, changes the execution order of the operations of said second information about said operation procedure if the execution result indicates the preset condition has not been satisfied, and

wherein the execution order of operations of each operation procedure is different relative to the execution order of operations of each of a plurality of other operation procedures.

3. (previously presented) A method for managing storage devices according to Claim 2, wherein said third information obtained from

said storage devices includes at least one item of information about utilization state, performance and fault.

Claim 4 (canceled).

5. (currently amended) A method of operational support for storage devices by using a computer, wherein said computer reads information about an operation rule for said storage devices accommodated previously in a memory device and information about an operation procedure being an order of execution of a plurality of operations of said storage devices associated with said operation rule for said storage devices,

wherein said operation rule defines for said operation procedure a predetermined action to be taken if a preset condition is not satisfied upon execution of said operation procedure,

wherein said computer obtains information of a result of execution of an operation by said storage devices from about said storage devices, and based on the basis of said information obtained from said storage devices, changes the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure if the execution result indicates the preset condition has not been satisfied, and displays, on the screen, information about the execution order of the operations of said operation procedure of said storage devices and information about said operation procedure after said information is changed,

wherein the execution order of operations of each operation procedure is different relative to the execution order of operations of each of a plurality of other operation procedures.

6. (original) A method of operational support for storage devices according to Claim 5, wherein said information obtained from said storage device includes at least one item of information about utilization state, performance and fault.

7. (currently amended) A program, stored on a storage medium, for managing storage devices, wherein said program, when executed by a computer, reads information about an operation rule for said storage devices accommodated previously in a memory device and information about an operation procedure being an order of execution of a plurality of operations of said storage devices associated with said operation rule for said storage devices,

wherein said operation rule defines for said operation procedure a predetermined action to be taken if a preset condition is not satisfied upon execution of said operation procedure.

wherein said computer receives an instruction to select said information about said operation rule for said storage devices from a user, sends said storage devices an instruction to execute said operation procedure of said storage devices associated with information about said operation rule based on said operation rule received, and obtains a result of execution of said operation procedure ~~at least one item of information about utilization~~

~~state, performance and fault, and changes the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure if the execution result indicates the preset condition has not been satisfied based on said item of information~~

wherein the execution order of operations of each operation procedure is different relative to the execution order of operations of each of a plurality of other operation procedures.

8. (currently amended) A program, stored on a storage medium, for managing storage devices, wherein said program, when executed by a computer, reads first information about an operation rule for said storage devices accommodated previously in a memory device and second information about an operation procedure being an order of execution of a plurality of operations of said storage devices associated with said operation rule for said storage devices,

wherein said operation rule defines for said operation procedure a predetermined action to be taken if a preset condition is not satisfied upon execution of said operation procedure.

wherein said computer sends said storage devices an instruction to execute said operation procedure of said storage devices based on said operation rule and said operation procedure of said storage devices, which have been read, obtains third information from said storage devices indicative of a result of execution of said operation procedure, and based on said third information obtained from said storage devices, changes the execution order

of the operations of said second information about said operation procedure if the execution result indicates the preset condition has not been satisfied,

wherein the execution order of operations of each operation procedure is different relative to the execution order of operations of each of a plurality of other operation procedures.

9. (previously presented) A program for managing storage devices according to Claim 8, wherein said third information obtained from said storage devices includes at least one item of information about utilization state, performance and fault.

10. (currently amended) A method of managing storage devices according to claim 1, wherein said operation procedure includes a plurality of parameters, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure is that includes a change of at least one of said parameters ~~is changed~~.

11. (currently amended) A method of managing storage devices according to claim 1, wherein said memory has a plurality of operation procedures, each of the operation procedures has a priority level, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure includes a change of ~~is that said~~ priority level of at least one of operation procedures ~~is changed~~.

12. (currently amended) A method of managing storage devices according to claim 2, wherein said operation procedure includes a plurality of parameters, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said second information about said operation procedure is that includes a change of at least one of said parameters is changed.

13. (currently amended) A method of managing storage devices according to claim 2, wherein said memory has a plurality of operation procedures, each of the operation procedures has a priority level, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said second information about said operation procedure includes a change of is that said priority level of at least one of operation procedures is changed.

14. (currently amended) A method operational support according to claim 5, wherein said operation procedure includes a plurality of parameters, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure is that includes a change of at least one of said parameters is changed.

15. (currently amended) A method of operational support according to claim 5, wherein said memory has a plurality of operation procedures, each of the operation procedures has a priority level, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said information about said operation procedure is that includes a change of said priority level of at least one of operation procedures is changed.

16. (currently amended)A program for managing storage devices according to claim 7, wherein said operation procedure includes a plurality of parameters, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said ~~information about said operation procedure is that~~includes a change of at least one of said parameters ~~is changed~~.

17. (currently amended)A program for managing storage devices according to claim 7, wherein said memory has a plurality of operation procedures, each of the operation procedures has a priority level, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said ~~information about said~~ operation procedure ~~is that~~includes a change of said priority level of at least one of operation procedures ~~is changed~~.

18. (currently amended)A method of managing storage devices according to claim 8, wherein said operation procedure includes a plurality of parameters, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said ~~second information about said operation procedure is that~~includes a change of at least one of said parameters ~~is changed~~.

19. (currently amended)A method of managing storage devices according to claim 8, wherein said memory has a plurality of operation procedures, each of the operation procedures has a priority level, and said change of the execution order of the operations of said second information



~~about said operation procedure is that~~includes a change of said priority level  
of at least one of operation procedures ~~is changed~~.